

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) are set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please ADD NEW claim 21, in accordance with the following:

21. (NEW) An optical transmission system wherein wavelength multiplexed optical signals are transmitted over an optical transmission line, as produced by a transmission-end device for such transmission, or, after such transmission, as received by a receiving-end device, wherein:

the transmitted wavelength multiplexed optical signals comprise a first predetermined number of data on a corresponding number of channels having added thereto a second predetermined number of error correction bits and both thereof converted to optical signals of respective, different wavelengths and which are wavelength-multiplexed for such transmission.